

Appl. No. 10/015,455
Amendment dated May 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 29, 2004

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy, comprising:

an amusement-type carriage device having a stationary base;

an adjustable torso support mounted on the amusement-type carriage device and including a pair of rotatable support arms for providing lateral support to the physically-challenged person while seated on the amusement-type carriage device when the amusement-type carriage device is operating; and

an adjustable headrest support mounted on the amusement-type carriage device for providing head and neck support to the physically-challenged person.
2. (original) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 1 further comprising a lap belt for securely positioning the physically-challenged person inside the torso support.
3. (currently amended) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 1 wherein the torso support comprises:

a pair of rotatable support arms;

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a plurality of vertically-mounted spine rods secured by a plurality of locking screws for adjusting the height of the pair of support arms to accommodate the physically-challenged person;

a pair of adjustable hand brackets fastened to the pair of rotatable support arms;
and

a pair of hand pads attached to the hand brackets and secured around the torso of the physically-handicapped person underneath the arms on each side of the rib cage.

4. (original) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 1 wherein the adjustable headrest support comprises:

an adjustable headrest assembly attached to a headrest rod for adjusting the depth of the headrest assembly;

a headblock attached to the headrest rod by a clamping knob for adjusting the height of the headrest assembly.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 1 further comprising An apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy, comprising:

an amusement-type carriage device;

an adjustable torso support mounted on the amusement-type carriage device for providing lateral support to the physically-challenged person while seated

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on the amusement-type carriage device when the amusement-type carriage device is operating;

an adjustable headrest support mounted on the amusement-type carriage device for providing head and neck support to the physically-challenged person; and
a head switch for starting the operation of the amusement-type carriage device.

6. (previously amended) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 1 further comprising a control panel for setting the run time of the amusement-type carriage device.
7. (previously amended) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 7 wherein the control panel includes a timer relay for delaying the time between activation cycles of the amusement-type carriage device.
8. (previously amended) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 1 wherein the amusement-type carriage device is a modified Marsupilami device.
9. (currently amended) An apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy, comprising:
an amusement-type carriage device having a stationary base;

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an adjustable seat attached to a base of the amusement-type carriage device by a spring mechanism and providing back support;

an adjustable torso and hip support mounted on the amusement-type carriage device and including a pair of rotatable support arms for providing lateral support to the physically-challenged person while seated on the amusement-type carriage device when the amusement-type carriage device is operating; and

an adjustable headrest support mounted on the amusement-type carriage device for providing head and neck support to the physically-challenged person.

10. (original) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 9 further comprising an adjustable shoulder strap for securing the physically-challenged person in a stable, upright condition during operation.
11. (currently amended) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 9 wherein the torso and hip support comprises:
a pair of rotatable support arms;
a plurality of vertically-mounted spine rods secured by a plurality of locking screws for adjusting the height of the pair of support arms to accommodate the physically-challenged person;
a pair of adjustable hand brackets fastened to the pair of rotatable support arms;
and

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a pair of hand pads attached to the hand brackets and secured around the torso of the physically-handicapped person underneath the arms on each side of the rib cage.

12. (original) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 9 wherein the adjustable headrest support comprises:
 - an adjustable headrest assembly attached to a headrest rod for adjusting the depth of the headrest assembly;
 - a headblock attached to the headrest rod by a clamping knob for adjusting the height of the headrest assembly.
13. (currently amended) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 9 further comprising An apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy, comprising:
 - an amusement-type carriage device;
 - an adjustable seat attached to a base of the amusement-type carriage device by a spring mechanism and providing back support;
 - an adjustable torso and hip support mounted on the amusement-type carriage device for providing lateral support to the physically-challenged person while seated on the amusement-type carriage device when the amusement-type carriage device is operating;

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an adjustable headrest support mounted on the amusement-type carriage device for providing head and neck support to the physically-challenged person; and a head switch for starting the operation of the amusement-type carriage device.

14. (previously amended) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 9 further comprising a control panel for setting the run time of the amusement-type carriage device.
15. (previously amended) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 14 wherein the control panel includes a timer relay for delaying the time between activation cycles of the amusement-type carriage device.
16. (previously amended) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 9 wherein the amusement-type carriage device is a rocking horse type device.
17. (previously added) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 1 wherein the amusement-type carriage device operates to provide at least one of pitch, roll, and yaw motion in three-dimensional space.

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18. (previously added) The apparatus for enabling a physically-challenged person to receive vestibular motion therapy of claim 9 wherein the amusement-type carriage device operates to provide at least one of pitch, roll, and yaw motion in three-dimensional space.